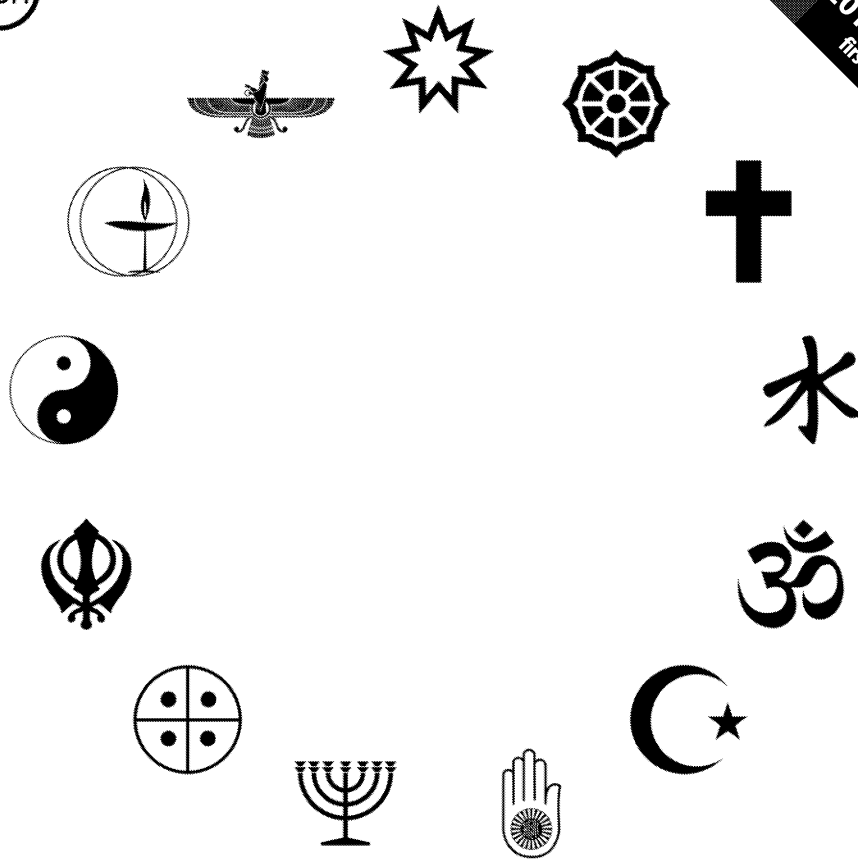


2016 specification
first exams in 2018



Revision Summaries for GCSE AQA Religious Studies A

Component 2 Theme B:
Religion and Life

Update v1.1, October 2025

zigzageducation.co.uk

POD
9371

Publish your own work... Write to a brief...
Register at publishmenow.co.uk

Follow us on Twitter [@ZigZagRS](https://twitter.com/ZigZagRS)

Contents

Thank You for Choosing ZigZag Education.....	ii
Teacher Feedback Opportunity	iii
Terms and Conditions of Use	iv
Teacher’s Introduction.....	1
The Origin of the Universe	2
Practice Questions	5
The Value of the World.....	6
Practice Questions	9
Use and Abuse of Animals	10
Practice Questions	13
Origin and Value of Human Life.....	14
Practice Questions	17
Abortion.....	18
Practice Questions	21
Euthanasia	22
Practice Questions	26
Life after Death	27
Practice Questions	30
Answers	31
Origin of the Universe	31
Value of the World	32
Use and Abuse of Animals.....	34
Origin and Value of Human Life	35
Abortion	37
Euthanasia.....	39
Life after Death	41

Teacher's Introduction

The revision summaries in this series are designed to support your students as they study the GCSE AQA Religious Studies A specification, and have been designed to cover the major themes and concepts of each topic point in Component 2, Theme B accordingly.

All students, whether they are academically strong, average or weak, can benefit from a concise and clearly explained set of notes to revise from as they work through the AQA course but also when preparing for their end-of-course exams. It is recommended, therefore, that students be given each relevant summary after learning a topic so that they can clearly understand the summaries and refer back to them when needed. However, the summaries can also function well as a pack given to students in the run-up to their exams.

Remember!

Always check the exam board website for new information, including changes to the specification and sample assessment material.

Each topic follows a set structure detailed below:

- ✓ **Keywords:** A clear list of important terminology students need to know when studying the topic.
- ✓ **Overview:** A look at the major themes of the topic, with a brief introduction to the major points of discussion and disagreement.
- ✓ **Key Points:** The main body of the summaries for each topic, they are a clear and concise set of notes that help students support their own knowledge and understanding of the topic.
- ✓ **Student Checklist:** A helpful guide to what students need to know by the end of the revision summary and a way to check their understanding and progress through a particular topic.
- ✓ **Practice Questions:** A full set of practice questions (with extra multiple-choice questions), complete with mark schemes. These are useful for students wishing to improve their knowledge on a particular topic and to practice skills as they approach their end-of-year exams.

This clearly ensures students have not only a grasp on the key themes of each topic, but a way to understand the place of each theme within the specification as a whole. Students who may have missed lessons or not made detailed notes may benefit greatly from these revision summaries in helping their recollection of key topics closer to their end-of-course exams, especially when looking over topics covered earlier in their studies.

November 2018

Update v1.1, October 2025

As per the exam board assessment updates, changes have been made to the practice questions:

- "contrasting" replaced with "different" in the 4 mark question
- 5-mark question replaced with a 6-mark question
- 2-mark question reduced to a 1-mark question

Free Updates!

Register your email address to receive any future free updates* made to this resource or other RS resources your school has purchased, and details of any promotions for your subject.

* resulting from minor specification changes, suggestions from teachers and peer reviews, or occasional errors reported by customers

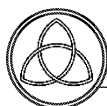
Go to zzed.uk/freeupdates

The Origin of the Universe



Keywords

- **Adam** The first human and man according to the account of creation.
- **Atheist** An individual who believes that there is no God.
- **Big Bang** The rapid expansion of matter from a central point; the most common theory for the origin of the universe.
- **Creation** The religious idea that God created the world.
- **Creationist** A Christian who has a literal interpretation of Genesis.
- **Eve** The first woman according to the account of creation in Genesis.
- **Garden of Eden** The paradise of creation described in Genesis in which Adam and Eve lived.
- **Genesis** The first book in the Bible, within which the account of creation is found.
- **Literal** An interpretation that allows for the use of metaphor.
- **Metaphorical** An interpretation that allows for the use of metaphor.
- **Sin** The wrongdoing of man, believed by Christians to have caused the fall of man.
- **Old Earth** Christians who have a literal interpretation of Genesis, believing the world was created in six ages, in the order according to Genesis.
- **Young Earth** Christians who have a literal interpretation of Genesis, believing the world was created in six days.



Overview

- The origin of the universe is one of the most vastly discussed mysteries within philosophical thought. Many different religions have theories of creation, and Christianity is no different. The Christian creation story is found in the same text as that of Judaism – the book of Genesis, which is the first book within the Bible.
- Within the book of Genesis there are actually two separate accounts of creation, contained respectively within Genesis 1 and 2.
- The first story of Genesis depicts God as creating the world within a period of six days, each day adding a new element to creation. The second story depicts God intentionally making Adam from dust and Eve from his rib. Both stories depict God as intentionally creating the world and all within it, and declaring it to be 'good'.
- Within the theory of creation, God created the world in six days, with no change. All creatures created then are the same as they are and look like today.
- Christian ideas of creation are not interpreted in the same way by all Christians. Some interpret the Bible story of creation as being a literal event which took place as recorded in the Bible. Other Christians interpret the creation story as being metaphorical or poetic, and some interpret it as being a scientific explanation of creation.

In the beginning
heavens and earth
was formed
over the
Spirit of
And God
a

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED





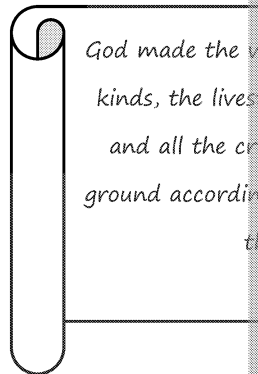
Key Points

The Story of Genesis

- There are two stories of creation within Genesis. These are contained within chapters 1 and 2.
- The story of creation in both accounts has one strong common theme – that the God who created the universe was God, and that he did so intentionally, and was pleased with his creation.
- It posits that there was nothing until God created everything within the world in the succession of six days.
- In Genesis 1, God creates the world from nothing – the heavens and the earth.
- In Genesis 2, God creates Man from dust and breathes life into him, then creates the rest of the world.

Literal Interpretations

- Some Christians believe in a literal interpretation of the story of the origin of the universe as recorded within the book of Genesis.
- Those who hold this literalist view are known as creationists. They can be divided into two groups: Young Earth Creationists, and Old Earth Creationists.
- Young Earth Creationists believe that the world was created in six days according to the literal account of Genesis. They believe that the world was literally created in six days in the exact way described in Genesis, as they view it as a historical account.
- This view would date the world as being approximately 6,000 years old, while scientists date the world as being approximately 14 billion years old.
- Old Earth Creationists believe that the world was created by God according to the literal account of Genesis, but that the Hebrew word used within the original text is 'yom', which they argue can mean a period of time. They argue that God created the world in stages as described in Genesis, but that these stages could be millions of years long. This would make the world older.
- Some creationists attempt to justify their ideas with a new form of science known as Intelligent Design.



Metaphorical Interpretations

- Some Christians take a metaphorical view of the story of creation. They might view it as being a form of poetry, as the stages in which the world was created are seen to fit well with the scientific theories about the way in which the universe came to be. These Christians might not see any issue with themselves believing in the Bible alongside scientific ideas about how the universe came to be.
- They might not see any issue with theories such as evolution, as they might argue that an intelligent God would create an intelligent world.
- For example, they might argue that the way in which the biblical account of creation closely mirrors the way in which theories such as evolution posit that stages of the universe fit together within the biblical accounts.

Non-religious Views

- The scientific community has developed theories regarding the origins of the universe, the most accepted of which is known as the Big Bang theory. This explanation functions to explain the origin of the universe without the need for a God to cause it; therefore, science as an event means that human beings no longer need God to explain the universe.
- The **Big Bang theory** is a largely accepted scientific explanation for the origin of the universe. It begins with a rapid expansion of very high density and temperature matter, known as the singularity, at which there was nothing, and that the universe and the world as we know it began to form at that event within history where this rapid expansion occurred.

INSPECTION COPY

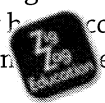
COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



- The **'steady state'** is a mathematical theory which opposes the Big Bang the matter continually creates and destructs in order to maintain the same level
- This theory was given significant credence by the work of scientist and physicist
- The vast majority of non-religious people hold the view that the scientific explanation of the universe makes the most rational sense, and, therefore, would hold this view

Christian Responses

- Many religious people have responded to the scientific community regarding of the universe; for example, the Big Bang theory.
- Some Christians who hold a literalist view of the creationist story completely that the evidence for this is either incorrect or a test of faith.
- Some Christians who hold a metaphorical or symbolic view of the creationist theory of the Big Bang, with some even arguing that it supports the Christian universe by supporting the idea that the universe originated from one singular point.
- Some Christians posit the idea of **incomprehensible complexity** in order to argue that the Big Bang was a random event. This is the idea that the world is so intricate and complex that it never happened by chance. Therefore, in their view it would make sense for the Big Bang to be true, but it might have been caused by God.



Student Checklist

What do I know?	No Idea 	Nearly 	Sure 		
I understand the story of creation in Genesis.					
I understand literalist interpretations of Genesis.					
I understand metaphorical interpretations of Genesis.					
I understand two non-religious ideas about the origin of the universe.					
I understand the Big Bang theory.					
I understand various responses to the Big Bang theory.					

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED





Practice Questions

Multiple-choice Questions (Note: in the exam papers there will only be one correct answer)

- In which book of the Bible is the creation story contained?
 - John
 - Exodus
 - Revelation
 - Genesis
- What view of the story of creation do creationists hold?
 - Metaphorical
 - Symbolic
 - Literal
 - Falsified
- What is the term for the event which most scientists believe caused the origin of the universe?
 - Evolution
 - Hubble Effect
 - The Big Bang
 - The Expansion
- How many accounts of creation does Genesis give?
 - 5
 - 1
 - 2
 - 3

- Give **one** interpretations of the creation story.
- Explain **two** different religious beliefs about the origin of the universe. Your response must refer to at least one religion.
- Explain **two** different Christian responses to the challenge of the Big Bang theory. In your response you must refer to sacred writings or another source of religious authority.
- 'Christian ideas about creation are incompatible with scientific ideas.' Evaluate this statement, and in your answer:
 - give reasoned arguments in support of this idea
 - give reasoned arguments against this idea
 - refer to religious viewpoints
 - refer to non-religious viewpoints
 - reach a balanced conclusion

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED

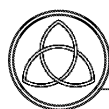


The Value of the World



Keywords

- **Awe and wonder** This is the feeling of appreciation of the beauty of the world and an experience regarding the way in which they view God's creation.
- **Climate change** A change in long-term weather patterns.
- **Dominion** This is the idea that human beings are placed at the apex of creation and have control over it.
- **Duty** A responsibility of an individual towards another individual or a group.
- **Environment** The ecosystem of the universe in which we live.
- **Global warming** The growing issue of a form of climate change in which the planet is becoming warmer.
- **Humanist** A secular ethical system which respects both animals and human beings.
- **Judge** To evaluate an individual's works or actions.
- **Responsibility** This is the idea of duty towards a certain obligation.
- **Stewardship** This is the idea that the world is a gift from God to humanity, and we have a responsibility to look after it.



Overview

- Matters of the world have become an important topic within the modern day. The depletion of natural resources has become a matter of international attention and importance concerning global warming. For Christians, the matter of looking after the world and its **responsibility**. Christians believe that when God created the world, he gave us the world as a gift, and with it a responsibility to rule and look after creation and every living thing.
- Christians believe looking after the world is important because it was given to us by God. The world displays God's good creation to Christians – it allows a beautiful world to be created. The world provides the climate and necessary facets required for human beings to live and thrive.
- In the modern world, there have been increasing issues concerning the environment, such as climate change and global warming, largely as a result of increased emissions from humanity's technology. For Christians, this poses the issue of the need to look after the world and to control the damage caused by humans to God's creation in this way.
- Religious people may feel **awe and wonder** at the world, as they feel it is God's gift to them. They are amazed that God created such a beautiful world, and such a great place for them to live.

INSPECTION COPY



INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED

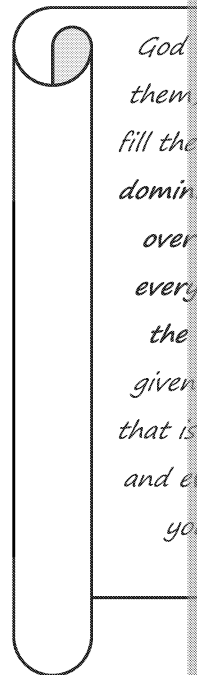




Key Points

Stewardship

- Christians believe that human beings are given a responsibility by God within the Bible to look after creation through the giving of dominion.
- Stewardship is an important responsibility – it is the understanding that the world is a gift which does not belong to humans but has been given to us to look after and enjoy the benefits of creation. It is the responsibility of humans, in the Christian view, to look after the planet.
- Ideas of stewardship are a continuous theme throughout the Bible, and not just mentioned within Genesis. For example, 1 Corinthians 4:1 states 'Therefore, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries'.
- Stewarding the resources of the world well – meaning looking after natural resources such as water and power – is an important facet of stewardship and has resulted in some Christians feeling moved to become involved in environmental efforts.



Dominion

- Dominion is the idea that human beings are the part of creation which God appointed to rule over creation. This is reflected within the Bible when God told Adam he had dominion over all creation, and allowed him to rule over it.
- For many Christians, the idea of dominion has a direct link to ideas of stewardship. The ruling part of creation comes the responsibility of ruling over what you have with care and respect for God's creation. It is an important part of Christian belief that God has given and act in such a way as to look after that gift and steward it.
- Some Christians have interpreted this idea to mean that they have the power to rule over it and, therefore, are able to do what they wish with creation. This has led to the use of the world's resources to help themselves develop and profit.

Use and Abuse of the Environment

- In the modern age there is a variety of issues with the planet.
- The inhabitation of the world by human beings and the developments in technology have led to an increasing of pollution of the environment via gas emissions, among other issues.
- This has resulted in a form of climate change. Climate change is the dramatic change over time which causes either a notable cooling or a notable heating of an area.
- The form of climate change this has caused is known as global warming, and is caused by the emissions that has caused the general rise in global temperatures. This has led to changes in weather in environments not used to such conditions, including the fact that it is having an impact on sea levels globally as well as on the ecosystems within the Arctic and Antarctica. Inhabitants of the Arctic are starting to know that their environment is changing.
- The use of harmful chemicals within the manufacturing process is harming the environment.
- Pollution from manufacturing production factories is causing issues with the ozone layer and affecting the environment in a way which is harmful, causing detriment to both human and the environment.

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT PROTECTED



Christian Responses

- Christians believe that they have the responsibility to combat the issues regarding the environment.
- In order to do this, they might pray for help from God regarding the environment.
- They might also be involved in Christian charities that campaign regarding environmental issues.
- Within their personal sphere, they might put a heavy personal emphasis on caring for the environment at their homes and within their church communities.
- Christian charities such as Operation Noah are a good example of charitable organisations that apply Christian principles with the goal of helping the environment.
- They might campaign with these groups to move away from fossil fuel use, to reduce the production of meat, and to reduce greenhouse gases, litter and the use of harmful chemicals in the environment.
- Some Christians might do environmental work in response to the awe and wonder of the experience of the beauty of the world and, therefore, they might feel prompted to care for the world which they believe God has provided for them with so much beauty.

Non-religious Responses

- Christians are not the only group of people who have strong feelings regarding the environment.
- Many people believe that the **environment** needs to be protected – whether that is for the world or the world inherited by future generations.
- This is a view held by groups such as the **Humanists for a Better World**, and they campaign towards trying to minimise the impact of damage caused by humanity on the environment.
- Non-religious groups such as humanists posit the idea that humankind has a responsibility to care for the world in order to pass it on to future generations. We have a responsibility to care for the world to make sure we look after the world.
- Some non-religious people feel humans have a right to rule the world due to the fact that humans have no more rights than other animals. These ideas have impacts on the views of non-religious people regarding such issues as animal rights and the morality of farming.
- They, like Christians, might campaign with secular groups to move away from intensive farming or the mass production of meat, and to reduce greenhouse gases, litter and harmful chemicals in the environment.



Student Checklist

What do I know?	No Idea 	Nearly 	Sure 	
I understand the concept of dominion.				
I understand the concept of stewardship.				
I understand the concept of global warming.				
I understand the humanist response to environmental issues.				
I understand Christian responses to environmental issues.				

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED





Practice Questions

Multiple-choice Questions (Note: in the exam papers there will only be one correct answer)

- Which of the following is the form of responsibility for the world felt by Christians?
 - Duty
 - Stewardship
 - Dominion
 - Ruling
- What is the term for the place of humans within creation?
 - Stewardship
 - Dominion
 - Responsibility
 - Duty
- Which verse contains the teaching on dominion?
 - Genesis 1:1
 - Genesis 1:30
 - Genesis 1:28
 - Genesis 2:40
- Which of the following is an example of a Christian environmentalist charity?
 - Tearfund
 - Christian Aid
 - Operation Noah
 - PETA
- Give **one** example of how a Christian might respond to climate change.
- Explain **two** different religious ideas about stewardship.
Your response must refer to at least one religion.
- Explain **two** different viewpoints on stewardship.
In your response you must refer to sacred writings or another source of religious authority.
- 'God gave human beings dominion, so we can do what we want with the world.'
Evaluate this statement, and in your answer:
 - give reasoned arguments in support of this idea
 - give reasoned arguments against this idea
 - refer to religious authorities
 - refer to non-religious viewpoints
 - reach a justified conclusion

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED

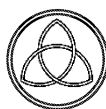


Use and Abuse of Animals



Keywords

- **Animal experimentation** Testing drugs or cosmetics on animals before human use.
- **Animal rights** The entitlements of non-human beings.
- **Cloning** Using genetics in order to engineer a being who is genetically identical to the original being through artificial methods.
- **Cosmetics** Beauty products, occasionally tested on animals before use.
- **Dominion** The Christian idea of humans being placed at the apex of the animal world, which is recorded within the first book of the Bible.
- **Genetic modification** Scientific technique of manipulation of genetic material.
- **Halal** The food which is permitted within Islam.
- **Kosher** The food which is permitted within Judaism.
- **Medicine** Substances or technology used to attempt to treat or prevent disease.
- **Secular** Separate from the influence of religious belief.
- **PETA** People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (American).
- **Vegetarianism** The practice of abstaining from the eating of meat.
- **Veganism** The practice of abstaining from the eating of any animal products, including cheese, eggs.



Overview

- The key idea of dominion within Christianity impacts Christian ideas about the treatment of animals.
- Historically, animals have been used to test on within the cosmetics and medical substances are then considered safe for humans.
- Some Christians feel they have a duty to look after animals and protect them. Other Christians may feel that being given dominion means that God has given what they wish with it, and, therefore, the testing of products on animals is justified.
- Many animals within the cosmetic, medical and meat industries which are used are kept in conditions which would be considered humane. For example, battery-farmed chickens would be considered to be a good quality of life. For this reason many non-religious people campaign for the rights of animals to have a good quality of life.
- Many religious and non-religious people also feel strongly about whether or not it is right for human beings to use animals as a food source, leading many to become vegetarian or vegan.



Key Points

Testing on Animals

- The process of testing on animals happens during the development of certain products in order to ensure they are safe for humans. There are three main ways in which testing on animals is carried out within so-called experimental treatments are carried out using animals with the aim of achieving new treatments and medicines to combat existing human diseases and health ailments. The most common testing on animals occurs is within the beauty industry, where products are tested to gauge whether or not the chemicals contained within the products are harmful to human beings. Cosmetics such as make-up are an example of this.

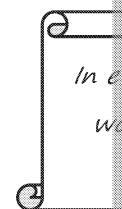
INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Religious Responses to Testing on Animals

- Some Christians might view the protecting of animals as being a duty of their chosen creation with dominion. Therefore, some Christians believe it is important that the creation of animals are looked after properly. This view might impact how a society views testing on animals.
- Some Christians might view testing on animals as being a necessary evil as it is often done from enduring the negative side effects of some drug or cosmetic use; by testing on animals, the avoidance of undue suffering of individuals might outweigh the benefits.
- Some people, including Christians, might view testing on animals as a positive contribution to the context of medicine. By testing medicines on animals, scientists are able to find cures for illnesses and afflictions which were previously not in existence. This can help to drastically improve the quality of life for those who are sick.
- Some Christians might argue that as humans are made in the image of God as a special creation, then they are more important than other creations. Therefore, it would be wrong to test on animals for the benefit of the healing of humans, who are considered to be more valuable. The healing of the sick would be considered to be the priority over the protection of animals.
- Some Christians might oppose all forms of testing on animals as they would see it as a violation of God's creation of animals for their own financial benefit (in the case of cosmetic testing) or against Jesus taught, you could either serve God or money).
- Some Christians believe that testing on animals is cruel and an example of bad stewardship which is given as a gift. It is an abuse of the gifts of animals given by God to human beings and, therefore, should not take place. Furthermore, scientific developments mean that in the modern day it is no longer wholly necessary to test on animals as there are alternatives.
- Some Christians would take the teaching of Matthew 7:12 to apply to this situation as an instruction not to test on animals – 'if we would be unhappy to treat human beings in such a way then it would not be right to treat animals in this way.
- Many secular people feel strongly about the issue of animal rights and are active in organisations such as PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) and the animal rights movement towards the end of better treatment of animals.



Use of Animals for Food

- Many societies use animals as a source of food.
- It is a common practice historically as well as within the modern day.
- Traditionally, this would have been done within a local community, on a relatively small scale. However, in the modern day the mass production of the meat industry to fill countries with a large variety and amount of meat available for purchase has created dilemmas, not least including the way in which animals are farmed and treated.
- Whether or not human beings should eat meat of another creature is also an issue. In the modern day, with the growing popularity of vegetarianism and veganism, there is a movement towards the end of animal-free products.

Religious Responses to the Use of Animals for Food

- The Bible has some guidelines regarding the use of animals for food, specifically in the Jewish and Islamic kosher laws. Leviticus 11:2–3 states that 'From these are the creatures that you may eat. Any animal that has divided hoofs and is left standing on its hooves you may eat'. Jews may also only eat meat which has been ritually slaughtered.
- Christians are not required to live by the same food laws as Jewish people for




COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



- Some Christians do not see the eating of animal meat as being immoral; how the way in which animal meat is mass-produced in the modern day, and may result. The way in which meat is mass-produced does not treat animals kind and so these Christians might choose not to eat meat, or to choose meat which contribute to what they would view as bad stewardship. It is not the eating of the issue with, it is the way in which the animals are treated.
- Some Orthodox Christians practise abstinence from the eating of meat on specific order to focus on God. Some Christians do not eat red meat specifically on Fridays was on a Friday that Jesus was believed to have died. By not eating red meat they are remembering his sacrifice.
- Within Islam, meat is only able to be consumed by believers if it has been slaughtered in a specific way (known as halal). This method of killing of animals is somewhat different to other religions, it is argued by some to be cruel and painful to the animal.
- Some religions, such as Buddhism, adhere to a non-violent principle and therefore do not eat meat. For this reason, those who adhere to this religion are largely vegetarian as this is seen as violating these principles.



Student Checklist

What do I know?	No Idea 	Nearly 	Sure 
I understand what animal testing is.			
I understand the Christian views regarding animal testing.			
I understand the concept of animals as food.			
I understand the religious ideas regarding why animals should be used as food.			
I understand the religious ideas regarding why animals should not be used as food.			
I understand the purpose behind the secular organisation PETA.			



**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**





Practice Questions

Multiple-choice Questions (Note: in the exam papers there will only be one correct answer)

- Which of the following industries is known for testing on animals?
 - Meat
 - Cosmetics
 - Clothing
 - Diet
- Which of the following is the term for the food code which Jews must abide by?
 - Halal
 - Lashon Harah
 - Mitzvot
 - Kosher
- Which of the following is an example of a secular animal rights movement?
 - PETA
 - Barnardo's
 - Save the Children
 - Operation Noah
- Which of the following religions is largely vegetarian due to a principle of non-violence?
 - Christianity
 - Buddhism
 - Islam
 - Judaism

- Give **one** religious view regarding the consumption of meat as food.
- Explain **two** different religious views about testing on animals. Your response must refer to at least one religion.
- Explain **two** religious reasons why the issue of stewardship might impact decisions about the treatment of animals. In your response you must refer to sacred writings or another source of religious authority.
- 'Religious people oppose the maltreatment of animals within modern society'. Evaluate this statement, and in your answer:
 - give reasoned arguments in support of this idea
 - give reasoned arguments against this idea
 - refer to religious viewpoints
 - refer to non-religious viewpoints
 - reach a justified conclusion

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED

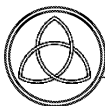


Origin and Value of Human Life



Keywords

- **Charles Darwin** The writer of *The Origin of Species*.
- **Creation** The idea that God created the world in the account of Genesis.
- **Creationists** Those who believe in the literal interpretation of Genesis and the account of human life.
- **Creation science** The development of scientific endeavours to attempt to reconcile belief in the creation story of Genesis with modern science.
- **Evolution** The scientific explanation of the origin of life: that organisms have evolved over time through natural selection, resulting in species adapting to their environment.
- **Natural selection** The idea that organisms with the advantageous genetic traits survive and reproduce, while those without would die without passing on their genes.
- **Old Earth Creationists** Believe that world was created in six ages, in the order in which the beings were created exactly as they appear today.
- **Polkinghorne** Anglican priest who sees no issue between religion and science.
- **Quality of life** The enjoyment of quality of the life of an individual.
- **Sanctity of life** The idea that human life is holy and sacred as it was created in the image of God that it has inherent value and should be treated with respect.
- **Young Earth Creationists** Believe the world was literally created in six days.



Overview

- The origin of life is one of the great mysteries which human beings have been engaged with for the history of humanity. Why and how we are here are ideas that have been the thoughts of both philosophers and scientists. There have been many different theories about the origin of life.
- Within Christianity, ideas about human life centre around the account of creation in Genesis.
- Within Genesis, humans are created by God in the image of God. Their lives are considered sacred, and it is from this that Christians derive the idea of sanctity of life.
- The main, and most popular, theory within scientific circles regarding the origin of life is evolution as posited by Charles Darwin. This theory posits that the species of organisms are the way they are as a result of thousands of years of **evolution**, which is the process of change in advantageous genetics within species.
- There is a mixed view within Christianity regarding the origin of human life. Some Christians believe the account of creation in Genesis is a literal account of how the world and humanity were created, while others, however, have a more metaphorical interpretation of the Bible and, therefore, support theories such as evolution.



Key Points

Evolution

- The theory of evolution is commonly held to be the most likely explanation of the current state of life of creatures in the world within modern scientific theory.
- The theory of evolution was first published by natural scientist Charles Darwin in his book *The Origin of Species*. This work was published in 1859, in which he proposed evolution via natural selection as the method by which life has come to be.
- Darwin spent years on a voyage on the HMS Beagle researching different species. On his exploratory voyage he noticed certain differences between different types of organisms, such as advantages depending on where they were located and their sources of food and shapes. Finches, for example, he noted had varying shapes of their beaks depending on their environment and what food was available (e.g. shellfish or berries).

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



- The different shapes of their beaks gave these finches advantages regarding survival. Those who lived in an area where shellfish was a more plentiful food, their beaks suited for eating shellfish. This gave them the advantage of being able to catch and eat their food more efficiently, therefore, alive.
- These changes, argued Darwin, are genetic advantages.
- The genetic changes allow those who have the advantageous mutations to live and pass on the advantageous gene. Those who do not have the gene do not thrive and so do not pass on their genes; therefore, they die out. Eventually within the theory, the small genetic changes become a characteristic held by every single creature within the species in that area. This is called **natural selection**, and is a key idea within evolution.
- The variety of creatures contained within the world supports this theory as being true. Indeed, the overwhelming amount of evidence that has been gathered and which looks to support the theory has largely been accepted as being fact within modern scientific discussion.
- Interestingly, Darwin himself did not see his theory as being contradictory to religion. He wrote that, 'I see no good reason why the views given in this volume should shock the religious feelings of any man.' Indeed, in the final chapter of his book, in which he posits evolution, he speaks of how hard to believe that an incredibly intelligent system could have been caused by random chance. It seemed to him too intelligent to happen by chance.
- Others, however, such as scientist and outspoken atheist Richard Dawkins, believe that evolution, among other scientific developments, has completely and utterly replaced the idea of God to create the world and to make human beings.
- It moves away from the idea that things were designed the way they appear, and instead suggests that things adapted and evolved in order to survive and thrive, which is why they work.

Genesis Account

- Although the accounts of creation within Genesis may differ in their accounts, they do maintain certain facts in common. These include the idea that God created the world and that human beings were created exactly as they are, without having to undergo any changes in order to make themselves the way they are.
- The first account of Genesis states that the world was created within six days, with humans created on the sixth day, and God rested on the seventh.
- In the second account of Genesis, Adam is made from dust/earth and Eve is made from one of Adam's ribs.
- This account is a far cry from the idea of evolution as a series of tiny genetic changes over time.
- The idea that God created human life attaches a certain importance to human life, and Christians the idea of sanctity of life. Some Christians are concerned that as a result of the origin of life might change the ideas of sanctity of life, leading to a loss of respect for human life.

Liberal Christian Responses

- Some Christians have no issue with the ideas posited by Darwin, and have accepted evolution. They see no issue between their beliefs in God and their acceptance of evolution. In the final chapter of Darwin's book, that such an intelligent and efficient system would be hard to believe to be the result of complete random chance.
- This, for some Christians, increases the awe and wonder they feel towards God's creation, as discussed in the Value of the World section.
- Some Christians view the account of creation as given in Genesis as being poetic – for them, God still created the world, but he did not do so in six days. Instead, it was a longer process. Many Christians point towards the fact that the stages of evolution posited as having generated all life seem to match up quite well with the stages in which things were made throughout Genesis. For this reason, they would argue it is a poetic account of the creation of beings and creatures through the gradual process of evolution. The way in which things were made to fit within the same order in which the creation of the world and the creatures were made. Therefore, in this way many Christians see no issue with believing in the process of evolution while still believing that God created the world.

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



- They see no reason why an intelligent God could not create intelligent creatures adapting to the world and the environment in which the creatures are living.
- As evolution can occasionally be seen as cruel, as the weaker within the theory on their genetics, this is considered to be a challenge to those who do not see Christianity or indeed their religious beliefs, and belief in the theory of evolution.

Conservative Christian Responses

- Some Christians choose to reject the theory of evolution as being untrue.
- These Christians interpret the teachings of Genesis and the creation story with historical truth. People who hold this view are known as creationists.
- Some conservative Christians have no issue with the accounts of evolution and those who believe in this way, there is no reason why other creatures might be changed, and indeed God is, in their view, intelligent enough to do so. However, in their view, were made by God as they are and typically have not evolved. It is to emphasise that God created human beings in his image. These Christians are known as Creationists.
- Young Earth Creationists believe that evolution is completely untrue. They believe that the creation story in Genesis is completely and literally true. They believe that God created human beings and animals created on the sixth.
- This is a fundamentalist view within Christianity and is not a mainstream idea.
- Some attempt to prove their ideas as truth, by endeavouring to use science to support creationism by looking for sources to support their ideas using science. This is known as Intelligent Design.
- They reject the idea that human beings and creatures were created out of a clay, placing emphasis instead on the idea that humans and creatures were intentionally created in the Judaeo-Christian tradition.



Student Checklist

What do I know?	No Idea 	Nearly 	Sure 	
I understand the concept of the theory of evolution.				
I understand interpretations of the story in Genesis.				
I understand liberal Christian responses to the theory of evolution.				
I understand conservative Christian responses to the theory of evolution.				
I understand other religious responses to evolution.				

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**





Practice Questions

Multiple-choice Questions (Note: in the exam papers there will only be one correct answer)

1. What theory did Charles Darwin put forward in his book *The Origin of Species*?
 - A The Big Bang theory
 - B Hubble theory
 - C Natural theology
 - D Evolution
2. What is the term for the genetic mutations being passed on if they are advantageous?
 - A Natural theology
 - B Natural selection
 - C Selective breeding
 - D Genetic mutation theory
3. What is the term for those who reject the theory of evolution, and instead view life as created by God?
 - A Creationists
 - B Liberal Christians
 - C Christian Scientists
 - D Genesis Experts
4. In which biblical book is the account of creation contained?
 - A Daniel
 - B Revelation
 - C John
 - D Genesis

5. Give **one** reason why evolution might be argued to disprove God.
6. Explain **two** different religious accounts of the origins of life. Your response must refer to at least one religion.
7. Explain **two** different ways religious people might respond to the theory of evolution. In your response you must refer to sacred writings or another source of religious authority.
8. 'Evolution has killed God.'
Evaluate this statement, and in your answer:
 - a give reasoned arguments in support of this idea
 - a give reasoned arguments against this idea
 - a refer to religious viewpoints
 - a refer to non-religious viewpoints
 - a reach a justified conclusion

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Quality of Life

- Ideas of quality of life are related to the perceived ability or viability of an individual of life which is perceived to be enjoyable and worth living.
- The connection between quality of life and abortion is the debate regarding a foetus which is severely disabled (e.g. will only live for a short period of time or of pain during their short life) is a moral action.
- Some Christians might argue that in the case of an extremely reduced quality of life, abortion might be the kindest and most compassionate way to deal with the situation.
- Other Christians argue, however, that every life is worth living, and that it is not for us to judge whether or not a life is worthy.

Personhood and When Life Begins

- One of the main issues within abortion discourse revolves around personhood: when should a foetus be considered to be a person? If so, what rights are they afforded?
- Within Islam, there are differing views about when a foetus attains personhood. Some believe ensoulment happens at one or two different stages of pregnancy, at which point the foetus is believed to have a soul. Before this point, abortion would be considered to be permissible. After this point, abortion would not ever be considered to be allowable.
- There are two different stages of pregnancy within Islam which consider ensoulment: either at 40 days following conception or at 120 days, depending on their scholarly interpretation.
- Many Christians believe that life begins at conception due to biblical teaching that every individual within the womb. Therefore, based on this teaching many Christians would view the foetus as a person, and, therefore, would equate the abortion to the same as murder allowed within the Ten Commandments.

Christian Arguments against Abortion

- The Catholic Church does not permit or accept the practice of abortion regarding human life. It emphasises the importance of every life. In an encyclical entitled *Humanae Vitae*, the Church condemned the use of contraception for Catholics and asserted the teaching within the Catholic Church that abortion is wrong. Within Catholic teaching, abortion for any reason (even an extreme medical condition such as an ectopic pregnancy which will result in the death of both the foetus and the mother) is not allowed. For Catholics, sex should always be open to the possibility of children within the context of a heterosexual marriage. Children are seen as a gift from God. Catholics believe that life begins from the very moment of conception and termination would constitute the ending of a life. Therefore, to end a pregnancy is considered to be murder. Methods of contraception such as the morning after pill are considered by some Catholics as they allow conception but do not allow the egg to implant.
- Some Christians might argue that life begins at conception, meaning that from the very moment the first few cells are formed in the process of conception, there is a life which is considered a person with the rights attributed. Therefore, ending the life of that person would then be considered to be murder, which is against the teachings of Christianity in the Ten Commandments.
- Jesus spoke frequently about the value of children, leading many Christians to place a strong emphasis on the importance of loving children.
- Many Christians would argue that God intentionally creates life as described within the Bible (Psalm 139). Only God, according to Christians, has the power to give and take life and, therefore, it is immoral for a human to take the life of another being – even if that being is a foetus – as this would violate the sanctity of life.

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Christian Arguments for Allowing Abortion

- Some Christians might consider abortion to be the lesser of two evils in some circumstances.
- The official position of the Church of England is similar to this as they state 'The Church of England combines strong opposition to abortion with a recognition that there can be – strict as it may be – circumstances in which it may be morally preferable to any available alternative.' (The Church of England's approach is an example of Christian use of situation ethics.)
- Some Christians might argue that abortion is a preferable option in the instance where the mother might be in danger, such as the instance of an ectopic pregnancy. A full-term pregnancy cannot be successful and will result in the death of both mother and baby, so an abortion can be acceptable here as it saves the life of the mother.
- The Catholic Church does not permit or accept the practice of abortion regardless of the circumstances.
- Some Christians might not believe that life begins at conception so they would not consider abortion to be murder.

Non-religious Responses

- Some non-religious people might disagree with abortion for personal reasons. Some might think that it is immoral because it ends the life of a human being.
- Many people feel that due to the high level of stress and change that a pregnancy brings to the life of the mother, it should be a choice left up to the mother alone to decide whether to continue a pregnancy.
- Many people also would argue that those who do not yet feel ready to have children should not bring unwanted children into the world – they might argue that it is crueler to bring a child into the world than to have the child grow up in an unhappy environment than to abort the child as a foetus.
- SPUC (Society for the Protection of Unborn Children) is an organisation not based on any particular religious faith. It bases its viewpoint regarding abortion on the following principles:
 - 'it is wrong to kill innocent human beings
 - everyone should be treated equally
 - all human beings are people with rights
 - children deserve special protection
 - the weakest in society are most vulnerable
- Many non-religious people feel that abortion is permissible within many circumstances, for example, in the instance of rape or incest.
- Some non-religious people might consider abortion on the grounds of quality of life. For example, should a baby be diagnosed within the womb as having a significant physical disability, which would significantly decrease their quality of life, then some might view it as kinder to abort the child.



Student Checklist

What do I know?	No Idea ☹	Nearly ☺	Sure ☺	
I understand the concept of sanctity of life.				
I understand the concept of quality of life.				
I understand Christian arguments against abortion.				
I understand Christian arguments for allowing abortion.				
I understand non-religious arguments against abortion.				
I understand non-religious arguments for allowing abortion.				

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED





Practice Questions

Multiple-choice Questions (Note: in the exam papers there will only be one correct answer)

- Which of the following terms refers to the termination of a pregnancy?
 - Euthanasia
 - Assisted dying
 - Abortion
 - IVF
- Which of the following is a branch of Christianity which considers abortion to be acceptable?
 - Catholicism
 - The Church of England
 - Pentecostalism
 - Protestantism
- Which religious organisation considers abortion allowable in some instances?
 - Church of Scotland
 - Orthodox
 - Baptists
 - Church of England
- Which of the following is a Bible verse commonly used to argue against abortion?
 - Psalms 139:13
 - John 3:16
 - Genesis 1:27
 - Revelation 4:4

- Give **one** reason Christians may oppose abortion.
- Explain **two** beliefs of the Catholic Church regarding abortion. Your response must refer to at least one religion.
- Explain **two** different viewpoints on abortion. In your response you must refer to sacred writings or another source of religious authority.
- 'The Church should hold that abortion is always wrong and should never be permitted.' Evaluate this statement, and in your answer:
 - give reasoned arguments in support of this idea
 - give reasoned arguments against this idea
 - refer to religious viewpoints
 - refer to non-religious viewpoints
 - reach a balanced conclusion

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Euthanasia



Keywords

- **Active euthanasia** The giving of drugs to end an individual's life at their request
- **Assisted dying** The act of helping another person to end their life
- **Dignitas** A Swiss organisation that advocates dignified death through euthanasia
- **Dignity** Honour or respect, which some argue the right to die is a violation of
- **End of life care** Care centred on the alleviation of pain in the end stages of life, not attempting to cure the illness
- **Involuntary euthanasia** When someone's life is ended without their consent, usually by a next of kin.
- **Mercy killing** The idea of ending a person's life out of mercy as a result of suffering
- **Palliative care** The care provided for those approaching the end of their life
- **Passive euthanasia** The stopping of medication which is keeping a person alive
- **Right to die** This is the idea that the individual should have the right to choose when they die.
- **Sanctity of life** The idea that life is sacred and should be protected
- **Quality of life** The idea that life should have a certain level of quality



Overview

- Euthanasia means the ending of one's life, possibly with the help of another person or a family member. It can also be termed as mercy killing, or in some cases as assisted suicide. It is sought after by those with a health condition which will not improve or will only worsen. It seeks the right to end their life without undergoing the suffering which the condition causes.
- There is a variety of different types of euthanasia, including active, passive, voluntary and involuntary euthanasia.
- Euthanasia is currently illegal within the United Kingdom following the Suicide Act 1961. It is illegal for someone to take another's life in any capacity within the United Kingdom. Some British people who are suffering from their own life have travelled to clinics in Switzerland, such as Dignitas, where euthanasia is legal.
- In the United Kingdom as well as elsewhere in the world, doctors will take the Hippocratic Oath, which is not permitted to practise medicine. This involves a doctor vowing to 'give no death, nor suggest such counsel', which the practice of euthanasia would be a violation of this concept within medicine of care of life and doing no harm above all else conflicts with the practice of euthanasia in the view of some.
- Some Christians oppose the practice of euthanasia for a variety of reasons, with some believing that it is a violation of the sanctity of life.
- There is also a variety of non-religious groups and other religious groups who oppose the practice of euthanasia.



COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



INSPECTION COPY




Key Points

The Right to Die

- The idea of the right to die is at the centre of the debate around euthanasia. An individual has the right to choose how and when they die. It is usually a discussion in the context of those who are suffering from extreme levels of pain or are facing a condition that will deteriorate and there is no cure.
- Many feel that they do not want to die in a painful way, or deteriorate to the point where they lose control over their bodies or are reliant on others. They do not wish to be a burden on others.
- Some people contend that individual human beings have the right to die, as they have autonomy over our own bodies and be able to make choices about what happens to them.
- Some people apply the logic that we put animals who are suffering down. If we can do that, they are considered to have a low **quality of life**, and keeping them alive is considered to be a waste. This logic can be applied to human beings.

Types of Euthanasia

 Assisted suicide	This is committing suicide with the help of another person. A friend, who could source the drugs necessary for euthanasia, themselves will take the drug to end their life.
Voluntary euthanasia	This is when an individual requests to be euthanased and the doctor administers the drugs themselves.
Non-voluntary euthanasia	This is when an individual is unable to request to be euthanased; they are in a state in which this is not possible; for example, in a vegetative state (PVS) or a coma. In this instance, the doctor makes the decision.
Active euthanasia	This is where someone administers a drug which causes death at their request.
Passive euthanasia	This is the removal of medication or necessary equipment, thus keeping someone alive in order for them to die.
Double effect	This is when medication may have the effect of shortening a person's lifespan, but is prescribed by a doctor in order to relieve pain.
Do not resuscitate	This is a declaration made by an individual that they do not wish to be in a position in which they are dying quickly (e.g. a stroke) and that they are not to be resuscitated.

Sanctity of Life vs Quality of Life

- These are two terms which are usually involved within debates about euthanasia.
- Sanctity of life is the idea that life is sacred and a gift from God to human beings as a gift from God. The account of creation in Genesis states that humans are made in the image of God and, therefore, are given special status. Human life is believed to have inherent dignity and importance and should not be taken lightly.
- For some, the importance lies not with the sanctity of life, but with the quality of life. This means that the emphasis is on the quality of life the individual is living and whether or not they are living a good life. Some would argue that those who live in a PVS (persistent vegetative state) would not have any quality of life. They would not be able to experience relationships. Those confined to their bed – who are paralysed, for example – have a limited existence and are reliant on others for their care. Some people argue that life is sacred, on this basis, those who suffer in this way should be allowed to end their lives.
- For some, mainly those who embrace religions such as Christianity, Judaism and Islam, life is sacred. This means holy. It has been created by God and it is not the place to be taken lightly and taken life.

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT PROTECTED



Christian Responses

- There is some divided opinion among Christians regarding the issue of euthanasia.
- Many Christians oppose the practice of euthanasia. This is for a variety of reasons. Many Christians believe in the sanctity of life and so for this reason would oppose the practice of euthanising individuals.
- Some Christians view killing of any kind as being immoral and against the teaching in the Ten Commandments of 'Thou shall not kill' in Exodus 20:13.
- Some Christians believe that suffering, such as the suffering endured by those who might wish to be euthanised, can be considered to be a test sent by God to test human morality and faith in God.
- Some Christians emphasise biblical teaching which speaks about helping the vulnerable and believe that this is a call to care for and improve the lives of those who might seek to be euthanised rather than grant them the right to end their life. The argument found in the Bible is that love is shared with those who are suffering. These Christians caring for the sick and needy. For this reason, many Christians may lay more emphasis on the end of life care, giving love, understanding and support to those suffering as their pain to give them the best experience of life (and death) possible. For example, they may opt to devote their lives to becoming hospice nurses or to volunteer in hospices in order to help those dying.
- The Catholic Church has been emphatically opposed to the practice of euthanasia. They assert that life is sacred from conception until death, the timing of which should be decided by God rather than human beings.
- Some Christians might believe some forms of euthanasia, such as double-effect or passive euthanasia or a DNR, to be acceptable; however, it is argued that these methods of euthanasia involve death by natural causes in some form, rather than a substance with the purpose of ending one's life.
- Some Christians argue that hope is a key value within the faith. They believe that euthanising an individual you are taking away the hope that humans could do better.
- Some Christians, however, believe that euthanasia should be considered acceptable because it could be argued to be the most compassionate way forward. It allows the individual to decide by the individual. Jesus emphasises love throughout his teachings, and for this reason they should always seek the most loving action. If some Christians view euthanasia as a loving action in some instances then it could be argued to be justified. It could be argued that it allows people to continually experience extreme suffering.
- Some Christians agree with the use of euthanasia, as it alleviates suffering and is seen as the most loving thing to do in some circumstances. For example, the Dutch Parliament in the Netherlands supports the use of euthanasia in some cases as it can be seen to be a humane and the methods by which it is administered could be seen as medical developments.



INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED

Other Responses

- Some non-religious groups such as humanists support the legalisation of euthanasia. They believe every individual should have the right to die on their own terms and in their own way.
- Non-religious arguments against euthanasia include things such as the slippery slope (the idea that the practice of euthanasia for certain conditions will lead to it expanding to include conditions which are curable, for example).
- Islam is a faith which does not allow for euthanasia in most cases, much like Christianity. Within Islamic thought, life is sacred and holy, created by Allah. Qur'an 17:33 specifically prohibits the taking of life unless there is just cause, such as a holy war. Most Muslims believe that where possible every effort should be made to save a human life. Allah is the one who decides when an individual is to die. Therefore, to make that decision is to usurp Allah's power. There are, as with most other religions, some liberal Muslims who agree with the legalisation of euthanasia.
- Some Jews consider euthanasia to be allowable. For example, some Reform Jews consider it acceptable. However, extreme Orthodox Jews, especially those with no cure, it could be an option. However, it violates the commandment in Exodus not to kill. There is the idea within Judaism of the duty to keep an ill person alive and, therefore, for this reason, some Jews oppose passive euthanasia.

'Nor take life sacred



Student Checklist

What do I know?	No Idea 	Nearly 	Yes
I understand the different types of euthanasia.			
I understand ideas of sanctity of life.			
I understand ideas of quality of life.			
I understand Christian arguments for euthanasia.			
I understand Christian arguments against euthanasia.			
I understand other viewpoints for euthanasia.			
I understand other viewpoints against euthanasia.			

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**





Practice Questions

Multiple-choice Questions (Note: in the exam papers there will only be 4)

- Which of the following is not a type of euthanasia?
 - Unassisted dying
 - Active euthanasia
 - Passive euthanasia
 - Assisted dying
- Which of the following is the term for the holy nature of human existence?
 - Quality of life
 - Importance of life
 - Made in the image of God
 - Sacredness of life
- Which of the following is a Bible verse used to argue against euthanasia?
 - Surah 17:33
 - Exodus 20:13
 - Genesis 1:20
 - John 3:16
- Which of the following reasons might a Christian give for allowance of euthanasia?
 - It is cheaper than providing care
 - It is biblically taught to be the best way
 - It is what some people want and people should be given what they want
 - It could be the most compassionate thing to do

- Give **one** example of a Christian view on euthanasia.
- Explain **two** beliefs on euthanasia, including one religious and one non-religious. Your response must refer to at least one religion.
- Explain **two** different religious responses to the issue of euthanasia. In your response you must refer to sacred writings or another source of religious authority.
- 'Euthanasia is immoral as killing is always wrong in religious views.' Evaluate this statement, and in your answer:
 - give reasoned arguments in support of this idea
 - give reasoned arguments against this idea
 - refer to religious views
 - refer to non-religious viewpoints
 - reach a justified conclusion

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED

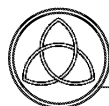


Life after Death



Keywords

- o **Death** The cessation of life.
- o **Heaven** A realm of the afterlife where believers go to live.
- o **Hell** A realm of the afterlife where people might go after death, away from being with God.
- o **Immortality of the soul** The belief that the spiritual part of a human being lives on after death.
- o **Jesus** The central figure of Christianity; through him Christians believe they can go into heaven.
- o **Purgatory** A realm of the afterlife before heaven or hell where souls go to purify themselves for their sins in life before entering heaven.
- o **Resurrection of the dead** The belief that at the end of time God will resurrect the dead.
- o **Value of human life** The value and importance one places on the life of an individual and a collective.



Overview

- Life after death has been and continues to be a great mystery about which humans have many questions. There have been great works of fiction and poetry made about those who have died and what awaits, if anything, beyond the grave.
- Religions too offer an idea about what awaits for each individual in the afterlife. Islam and Hinduism all proffer their ideas about what happens after the event of death. Some people do not believe in an afterlife, whereas others have their own ideas about what happens.
- Within Christianity, there are passages in the Bible which teach about the resurrection of the dead. Christians have different ideas about what they will be like. They also have different ideas about the destinations of the afterlife depending on denominations.



Key Points

The Afterlife in Christianity

- Ideas of the afterlife within Christianity are mostly founded within biblical teaching. However, there are differentiations between denominations.
- The Bible describes there being both a heaven and a hell. These are both realms within the afterlife. Heaven is a place of joy where people are united with God. It is a place of plenty where believers can spend eternity with God. Hell is depicted as a place of suffering and torment. The Bible uses a lot of fire to describe hell. This is a realm which is removed from the presence of God. Some Christians believe that those who have not repented of their sins will be sent to hell to suffer for the rest of eternity. Some Christians believe in a literal heaven and a literal hell; that these are literal places where people will go when we die or after the Day of Judgement. Other Christians believe that heaven is just a state of being with God and hell is just a state of being without God.
- Many Christians believe that there will be a judgement of all humanity on the Final Day (the Day of Judgement) in which those who have believed in God and Jesus and have tried to live good lives will be taken to heaven and those who have not will go to hell where they will be punished for their deeds in life.
- Some Christians believe that only belief in Jesus can grant human beings access to heaven in the afterlife.

Jesus said to him, 'I am the life. No one comes to the Father without me.'

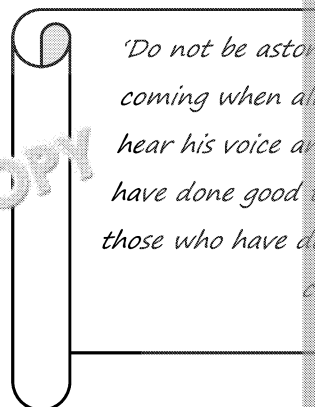
[Jesus] replied, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



- This is because of biblical teachings such as John 14:6. The only way to heaven is to accept Jesus as a personal saviour. Not all Christians believe that this is the case.
- Catholics believe in a place called purgatory. This is a realm of the afterlife where souls go before they go to heaven. Here individuals who have committed sins in their earthly lives must recompense for their actions before being purified of them and then they can go to heaven. This is a Catholic teaching and is not mentioned in the Bible, so it is not believed by all Christians.
 - Some Christians believe that people go to a realm of the afterlife immediately after their individual deaths, as their spiritual being will pass on to the realms of purgatory or heaven or hell. This is tied to the idea of the immortality of the soul – that the soul and the body are separate entities. In this school of thought, the soul will take part in the afterlife whereas the body will not.
 - Some Christians believe that God will resurrect all bodies at the end of time. At this point there will be judgement and people will either go to heaven or hell. This is known as the resurrection of the body.
 - Some Christians believe in both of these ideas simultaneously. These interpretations are based on biblical passages which are interpreted differently.
 - This makes human life valuable within Christian thought. Human life is sacred to God. Many Christians believe that they can live without fear, as they can have faith that if they have died they can go to heaven without fear of punishment.
 - Human life is valuable as humans can serve God while they wait for the afterlife.
 - Some Christians, such as a small number of monks, have chosen to make the focus on holy things such as the afterlife, which demonstrates the value they place on life.



Non-religious Ideas about the Afterlife

- There is a variety of non-religious ideas about the afterlife.
- Some non-religious people do not believe that there is any form of afterlife. They believe that there is no spiritual facet of humanity that lives beyond the physical life that our bodies experience. Therefore, they believe that people should enjoy life as much as possible. They do not believe in anything beyond the physical experience of the world as it is now.
- However, some non-religious people have their own ideas about the afterlife and believe in something more than just the physical world but may not attribute these ideas to a deity.
- This makes human life valuable from both viewpoints as each individual only gets one chance to live. Once this is over, there is no more experience. This might spur someone who has lived a full and enjoy life, while protecting life. This also places a higher emphasis on the value of life.
- Many non-religious people do not think that there are spiritual consequences to actions. They view life as valuable and see it as wrong to end human life.

Beliefs about the Afterlife in Other Faiths




- There is not one fixed idea of the afterlife within Judaism, but there is a general belief in an afterlife. Many Jews do believe that there is an afterlife and that it will involve being reunited with loved ones who share this belief.
- Within Islam, more so than Christianity, there is a clear sense of heaven and hell. Muslims believe that all who have obeyed the commands outlined in the Qur'an will be sent to paradise. Those who have disobeyed will be sent to hell. Muslims believe that they will wait in the grave until the Day of Judgement the book of life will be used to judge those destined for heaven or hell based on the actions they committed during life.
- Religions such as Hinduism have the concept of reincarnation. This is the belief that the soul is reborn into a new body after death. This is the cycle of life cycles (samsara). The way in which Hindus act in each life will impact the way they are reborn. This will affect their rebirth. For example, a person might have a good rebirth as a human or a bad rebirth as a dung beetle. Life, in this instance, has value as it provides the path to development and progress. Hindus believe that eventually they might achieve 'moksha', which is liberation from the cycle of rebirth. They achieve a union with God (Brahman). Buddhists have some similar ideas about the afterlife where an individual soul ceases to exist.

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED





Student Checklist

What do I know?	No Idea 	Nearly 	Sure 	
I understand the concept of life after death.				
I understand Christian ideas of heaven, hell and purgatory.				
I understand the ideas of the immortality of the soul and the resurrection of the body				
I understand at least two other religious ideas about life after death.				
I understand non-religious views about life after death.				
I understand how these ideas about the afterlife impact ideas of the value of human life.				

INSPECTION COPY

 INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED





Practice Questions

Multiple-choice Questions (Note: in the exam papers there will only be one correct answer)

1. What is the term for the realm of the afterlife where individuals go to be with God?
A Hell
B Purgatory
C Barzakh
D Heaven
2. What is the term for the realm of the afterlife taught within the Catholic Church?
A Purgatory
B Hell
C Paradise
D Heaven
3. What is the term for the life cycle in Hinduism?
A Karma
B Barzakh
C Samsara
D Nirvana
4. Which of the following Bible verses is used to posit the idea that only Jesus can forgive sins?
A John 1:47
B John 14:6
C John 5:28–29
D John 4:18

5. Give **one** non-religious viewpoints about life after death.
6. Explain **two** different religious beliefs regarding the end of life.
Your response must refer to at least one religion.
7. Explain **two** religious beliefs about the afterlife.
In your response you must refer to sacred writings or another source of religious authority.
8. 'Belief in life after death gives value to human life.'
Evaluate this statement, and in your answer:
 - give reasoned arguments in support of this idea
 - give reasoned arguments against this idea
 - refer to religious viewpoints
 - refer to non-religious viewpoints
 - reach a justified conclusion

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Answers



Origin of the Universe

Multiple-choice: Correct answers in order: (d), (c), (c), (c) (1 mark each for a total of 4 marks)

5. 1 mark for any correct point.
- That the account of Genesis is a literal account and God created the world in six days, with the final facet of the world culminating in the creation of animals and humanity on the sixth day.
 - That the creation story can be interpreted metaphorically, aligning the account with modern science, such as both the Big Bang theory and evolution to fit well in explaining how God created the world.

6. 2 marks per point for a total of **4 marks:**

Simple explanation = 1 mark

Detailed explanation = 2 marks

Students may include the following:

- Students answering this question should include that creationists have a literalist viewpoint of the Bible, interpreting the story of the origin of the universe as recorded within it.
 - They can be divided into two groups: Young Earth Creationists, and Old Earth Creationists.
 - Young Earth Creationists believe that the world was created in six days according to the Bible. They believe that the world was created exactly as described in Genesis.
 - This view would date the world as being only a few thousand years old, while Old Earth Creationists view the world as being billions of years old.
 - Old Earth Creationists believe that the world was created by God according to the Bible. The Hebrew word used within the original text is 'yom', which they argue means age.
 - They would then argue that God created the world in stages as described in Genesis, rather than six days. This would make the world older.
 - Some creationists attempt to justify their ideas with a new form of science known as Intelligent Design.
7. Marked as the four-mark question, plus 1 mark for naming a relevant reference to science, plus a further mark for applying this to the question, for an overall total of **6 marks:**

Students might include the points below, but any relevant points can be included:

- Many religious peoples have responded to the scientific community regarding the origin of the universe; for example, the Big Bang theory.
- Some Christians who hold a literalist view of the creationist story completely reject the evidence for this is either incorrect or a test of faith.
- Some Christians who hold a metaphorical or symbolic view of the creationist story accept the Big Bang, with some even arguing that it supports the Christian idea of the universe originating from one singular event.
- Some Christians posit the idea of irreducible complexity in order to argue against the Big Bang was a random event. This is the idea that the world is so intricate and complex that it could not have occurred by chance; therefore, in their view it would not make sense that an event of this complexity would well be true, but that it might have been caused by God.

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Preview of Answers Ends Here

This is a limited inspection copy. Sample of answers ends here to stop students looking up answers to their assessments. See contents page for details of the rest of the resource.